

Important Contact
Information for
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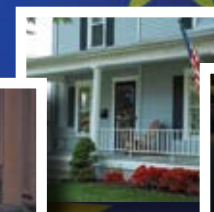
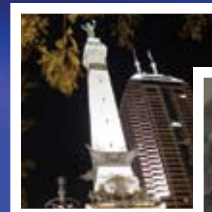
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Woody Burton

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2009 Legislative Wrap-Up



What important issues are facing our
community today, in your opinion?

Please feel free to e-mail me your thoughts to h58@iga.in.gov, post
your comments on my Web site at www.in.gov/h58, or return this
card with your comments below.

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE WOODY BURTON
INDIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Dear Neighbor,

Thanks to everyone who shared their thoughts and concerns with me during both the regular and the special sessions. I understand the special session might have been frustrating for taxpayers, but please rest assured I appreciate everyone's patience and understanding.

Indiana is facing tough economic times, but we continue to be among the very few states that have not cut education or raised taxes. We have, however, kept education and public safety our top priority, and I believe the state budget proves that.

I believe we were able to create such a responsible budget because it was crafted using fiscally conservative policies. We were forced to make some tough decisions, but I believe they will help make Indiana a more efficient state.

We also were able to pass legislation honoring our Hoosier veterans, keeping Hoosiers in their homes, providing tougher regulations for mortgage companies and protecting consumers safe from identify theft.

As we move into fall, I intend to schedule town hall meetings in October and November to hear your thoughts about the next legislative session.

As your state representative, I can represent you much better if I know your opinions and concerns regarding any issues you may have. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Your representative,



Woody Burton
Woody Burton

Woody Burton

State Representative • House District 58

*Rep. Burton listening to floor discussion.**Rep. Burton talking with student pages.*

Taxpayers are Winners in New State Budget

I believe the new state budget, based on solid common-sense principles, is a success for Hoosier taxpayers and public education.

Although the budget is a bipartisan compromise, with all 48 House Republicans voting for it, House Republican principles remained an important influence. It is a success, I believe, because:

- It contains no general tax increases.
- It maintains at least \$1 billion in state reserves.
- It uses one-time federal stimulus money responsibly, including statewide infrastructure and university construction projects.
- It does not deplete trust funds or other dedicated money for operating expenses.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, along with House and Senate Republicans, outlined those standards early in the process and did not waver. While many states are cutting overall education spending, raising taxes or both, this budget does neither. It even promises more support for education through additional funding. In addition, the "education trigger" would allot 50 percent of state revenue to education when income exceeds revenue projections.

Statewide public education receives what I believe is solid support:

- K-12 education gained an average increase of 1.1 percent in calendar year 2010 and 0.3 percent in calendar year 2011.
- The budget fully funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at rapidly growing public schools.
- The Ivy Tech Community College network was given enhanced support, and bonding is authorized to fund 38 university capital projects throughout the state, including Indiana University Southeast, Purdue University and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.
- The state's higher education scholarship grants program receives increases of 6 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 3 percent in fiscal year 2011.

I believe this is the right budget for Indiana right now, and that is why I voted for it.